

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 28, 2003. In that Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miyauchi. Claims 13-18 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyauchi in view of Carper. Claims 5, 7 and 8 were indicated as being allowable if properly rewritten.

With respect to the §102(a) rejections, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 19 to incorporate the recitations of Claims 2 and 5. Claims 2 and 5 have accordingly been deleted. Inasmuch as the Office Action indicated that Claim 5 was allowable, these amendments now render Claims 1 and 19 allowable. These amendments also serve to overcome the §103(a) rejections. All other claims are dependent claims and are therefore allowable as well.


The claims have further been slightly amended to refer to a "data storage device" rather than a "card." This language is supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added. The card aspect of the invention has been introduced as a new dependent claim 23. Applicants have also added new method Claims 20-22 which depend from Claim 19, and relate to the block addressing. This addressing is described in the specification, and again no new matter has been added. No fee is due for the presentation of the new claims since the total number of claims pending is only 17.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the §102(b) and 103(a) rejections.

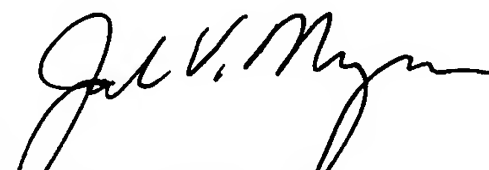


Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending claims and deleting others. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop FEE Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 1, 2004.

 March 1, 2004
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


Jack V. Musgrove
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,986